

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A cover for a tubular metal guard rail of the type having an outer diameter, two below-ground ends, and a substantially semi-circular above-ground midsection connecting the two ends, the cover comprising:

spaced-apart front and back panels, each having a flat bottom edge and a semi-circular upper portion;

wherein the semi-circular upper portions of the front and back panels smoothly transition through an integrally formed semi-circular side edge corresponding to the outer diameter of the tubular metal guard rail, leaving a slot open at the bottom to receive the metal guard rail in slip-fit engagement such that the bottom edges are adjacent the ground surface; and

a fastener for securing the cover to the guard rail.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The protective cover of claim 16, wherein at least one of the front and back panels includes an advertising display.

19. (Previously Presented) A guard rail assembly, comprising:

a tubular metal guard rail of the type having an outer diameter, two below-ground ends, and a substantially semi-circular above-ground midsection connecting the two ends;

a guard rail cover including two spaced-apart front and back panels, each having a flat bottom edge and a semi-circular upper portion; and

wherein the semi-circular upper portions of the front and back panels smoothly transition through an integrally formed semi-circular side edge corresponding to the outer diameter of the tubular metal guard rail, leaving a slot open at the bottom to receive the metal guard rail in slip-fit engagement such that the bottom edges are adjacent the ground surface.

20. - 22. (Canceled)